

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14 and 16-29 remain in this application. Claims 15 and 30 have been canceled.

The Examiner has rejected claims 14 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 101 on the ground that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. These claims have been amended accordingly. As such, the rejection of claims 14 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 101 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9, 11, 13-24, 26 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,420). Applicants have reviewed this reference and disagree with the Examiner's assessment. In general, Johnson et al. pertains to a method and apparatus that enables modification of a document via telephone. In this method, one user is defined as a Driver and another user is defined as a Passenger. The Driver determines the changes to be made to the document, and the changes are reflected in both versions of the document displayed to the Driver and Passenger. In this method, it is not necessary that both Driver and Passenger use the same application program.

While Johnson et al. pertains to a method and apparatus that facilitates the coordinated editing of documents amongst multiple parties, the Examiner's use of this reference to question the novelty of the present invention is based on an oversimplification of the facts.

First, the Examiner asserts that Johnson et al. teaches "a collaborate control program associated with each of said at least two integrated computer telephony devices for detecting commonly supported ones of said collaboration application programs and in response activating said indicator." This position lacks merit as there is no teaching in Johnson et al. of the "collaborate control program" as presently recited in claim 1. The Examiner points to Figure 2, and column 1, line 53 to column 2, line 46, for support, but there is nothing within these sections or the broader reference that teaches such a feature,

particularly a "collaborate control program" as described in detail on page 4 of the present application.

In fact, with reference to Figure 5 in Johnson et al., it is clear that the users themselves are responsible for establishing the connection of the editor programs (see column 5, lines 47-50). This cumbersome and tedious process is common and represents a major problem with prior art technologies. Indeed, Johnson et al. teaches away from Applicants' claimed invention in that it falls squarely into the acknowledged prior art that requires users to manually set up the collaborative session, launch software, etc. (page 1, lines 27-33 of Applicants' specification). By way of contrast, in Applicants' invention incorporating "collaborative control program . . . for detecting commonly supported . . . collaboration application programs," collaborative sessions may be set up between parties "without complex and time-consuming setup programs as are common in the prior art" (page 2, lines 6-7 of Applicants' specification), such as the complex arrangement of Johnson et al. In contrast, the present invention provides a collaborative control program that detects commonly-supported collaboration application programs. This feature is neither taught nor contemplated by Johnson et al.

In addition, Johnson et al. fails to teach or suggest the feature of "collaboration" as set forth on page 3 of the present invention. "The term "collaboration," as used in this specification, refers to one of a number of desktop collaboration application programs, excluding voice, which allow for enhanced communication between one or more people via their desktop computers (PCs)"

The Examiner attempts to equate the feature of "at least two of said integrated computer telephony devices supporting collaboration application programs" with the teachings in column 1, lines 60 to 67 of Johnson et al. This assessment is without merit. At no point does Johnson et al. disclose "collaboration application programs" within the meaning set forth on page 3 of the present application. Johnson et al. is directed solely to the modification/proof of documents, and certainly does not contemplate "desktop collaboration application programs . . . which allow for enhanced communication between one or more people via their desktop computers."

As clearly taught in Johnson et al. (column 4, lines 1 to 5):

In the present invention, one of the stations serves as the control. The control station may be referred to as the "user", the "sender", or the "Driver". The other station(s) may be referred to as the "connected user(s)", the "recipient(s)", or the "Passenger(s)".

Johnson et al. goes on to teach that "both users cannot be in the Driver mode and thereby dictate editorial changes to the document of interest" (column 6, line 31-33). In view of these teachings, Applicants conclude that Johnson et al. does not teach nor contemplate a user interface congruent with the term "collaboration" as defined in the present application. In fact, it would seem that Johnson et al. teaches away from a collaborative interface, which is imperative to a network-implemented shared workspace environment. As such, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, and claims dependent thereon, are novel in view of Johnson et al.

With regard to independent claims 13, 14, 16, 28 and 29, the foregoing discussion also serves to distinguish these claims over Johnson et al. As the Examiner will note, these claims set forth similar features relating to the establishment of a collaborative interface, which allows for enhanced communication between one and more people via their desktop computers (PCs). Similar to the collaborative control program recited in claim 1 (as well as in claim 16), claims 13 and 28 recite a collaborative control means. Claims 14 and 29 recite the comparison of lists to ascertain supported collaboration programs, a feature neither taught nor contemplated by Johnson et al. The Examiner's assessment and attempts to equate the claimed features to the teachings in Johnson et al. is based upon an oversimplification of the facts. As such, Applicants contend that independent claims 13, 14, 16, 28 and 29, and the claims dependent thereon, are novel in view of Johnson et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 10, 12, 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) asserting the claims are obvious with regard to Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,420). As discussed above, the claims of the present invention set forth features relating to the establishment of a collaborative interface, which allows for enhanced communication

between one and more people via their desktop computers (PCs). In view of the foregoing discussion regarding the novelty of the present invention, Applicants respectfully submit that the "Official notice" relied upon to question the inventiveness of these claims fails to address the deficiencies of Johnson et al. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10, 12, 25 and 27 are inventive with regard to the cited reference.


CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-14 and 16-29) are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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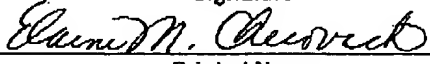
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